

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 4-6, 11, 18-20, 25 and 42 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims; objected to claim 29 due to informalities; and rejected claims 1-3, 7-10, 12-17, 21-24, 26-41 and 43-49 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Fairbanks* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,182,020). The Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter. Applicant traverses the rejections for the reasons set forth below. Reconsideration is respectfully requested based on the remarks below.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 11, 16, 19, 20, 25, 29, 31, 35, 42, and 46 have been amended to further clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification on page 6, line 28 to page 7, line 11; page 16, lines 21-36; and elsewhere. Claims 4 and 18 have been canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, claims 1-3, 5-17 and 19-49 are now pending in this application.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

It is respectfully submitted that claims 5, 6, 11, 19, 20, 25, and 42 are in condition for allowance since they have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims as pointed out by the Examiner. It is also respectfully submitted that claims 26 and 27 are allowable since they depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 25.

OBJECTION TO CLAIM 29 FOR INFORMALITIES

Claim 29 has been amended to address the informalities as pointed out by the Examiner. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to claim 29 be withdrawn.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Independent claims 1 and 16 have been amended to include respectively canceled claim 4's and canceled claim 18's limitations, which the Examiner indicated as being allowable subject matter in the Office Action. Independent claims 31, 35 and 46 have also been amended in view of canceled claim 4's and canceled claim 18's limitations. Specifically, claim 31 includes the limitation "wherein the extracting is done only once for each node in the netlist" whereas claims

35 and 46 include the limitation "wherein no extraction of said properties at the first node is performed between the execution of the first and second design rules in (b) and (c)." As such, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 16, 31, 35, and 46 are patentable over cited art.

The Examiner's rejections of the dependent claims are respectfully traversed. Claims 2, 3, 7-10, 12-15, 17, 21-24, 28-30, 32-34, 36-41, 43-45 and 47-49 each depend either directly or indirectly from independent claims 1, 16, 31, 35, or 46 and, therefore, are respectfully submitted to be patentable over cited art for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1, 16, 31, 35, or 46. Further, the dependent claims require additional elements that when considered in context of the claimed inventions further patentably distinguish the invention from the cited art.


As mentioned above under the "ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER" subheading, it is respectfully submitted that claims 5, 6, 11, 19, 20, 25, and 42 are in condition for allowance since they have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims as pointed out by the Examiner. It is also respectfully submitted that claims 26 and 27 are allowable since they depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 25.

SUMMARY

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this Amendment, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fees from the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0388 (Order No. ALTRP085).

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP


Desmond Gean
Reg. No. 52,937

P.O. Box 70250
Oakland, CA 94612-0250
Telephone: (510) 663-1100
Facsimile: (510) 663-0920

Application No. 10/601,015
ALTRP085/A880

Page 12 of 12